

Creative Ireland Programme

Kildare – Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022

Your comments on the draft Culture & Creativity Strategy are invited before 12noon, November 27th 2017.

*Email submissions to
creativekildare@kildarecoco.ie, or hard copy,
marked
'Creative Ireland Strategy' to*

Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, Co Kildare

Creative Kildare

Culture and Creativity Strategy for the Creative Ireland Programme in Kildare County Council

Contents

- 1: Foreword 1
- 2: Foreword 2
- 3: Culture and Creativity in Kildare
- 4: The Creative Ireland Vision for Kildare
- 5: The Creative Ireland Values in Kildare
6. Strategic Priorities for Kildare
7. Implementation

Foreword 1

There are so many examples of what is unique, or peculiar to Kildare - the Curragh Plains, the Quaker history in Ballitore, the military and equine history of the county, the bogs, canals and the landscape of the *'Short Grass County.'* The county has strong cultural traditions in literature, amateur drama and musical societies, local history, Irish language choral, orchestral and traditional music, as well as a year-round festival programme.

The iconic sculpture 'Perpetual Motion' on the N7, acknowledging the commuter nature of the county. In contrast, the commemorative Shackleton artwork in Athy, is a reminder of the rich and varied heritage in Kildare.

The county's rich folklore and tradition is complemented by the physical cultural infrastructure including Castletown House, Celbridge, Moat Theatre, Naas, Leinster Printmakers, Clane, Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, Town Hall Theatre, Kilcullen, Prosperous Theatre, the Curragh Military Museum, Athy Community Arts Centre, Athy Heritage Centre-Museum, as well as a solid network of public libraries. The facilities provided by Maynooth University offer an important role in supporting innovation and research across a broad field of study, including media, film, music and product design. Initiatives like Heritage Week, Culture Night, Kildare Readers Festival and Play Day are key events that showcase all that is good in culture and creativity in Kildare.

New technologies provide a whole new 'digital world of opportunity' that can push the boundaries of is possible for creating work, documentation and sharing our stories with world.

Foreword 2

This strategy takes cognisance for the national Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022, Kildare's County Development Plan 2017-2023, Kildare's Corporate Plan 2015-2019, Kildare's Local Economic & Community Plan 2016-2021, Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland Arts Council Strategy 2016-2025, Kildare Library Plan 'Ideas Realised 2011-2017, ' Kildare Arts Strategy 2018-2023, County Kildare Heritage Plan, County Kildare Biodiversity Plan, 2020 Vision for Kildare, the Healthy Ireland Framework 2013, as well as Culture 2025. It is written as Kildare County Council enters into a new Framework Agreement with the Arts Council.

The Community, Culture and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee, with representatives from community groups, the business sector, with elected members is an example of how the local authority has collaborated and consulted on policy and strategy and We recognise the function of the members in supporting this Culture and Creativity Strategy. The Creative Ireland initiative further supports the raising of the role of culture and creativity

in building cohesive and sustainable communities locally. It allows us to build on what we have already achieved, as well as raising awareness in building cohesive and sustainable communities, that are vibrant places for people to live, work and invest

Within this, Kildare County Council prides itself on its work to date in the area of 'wellbeing' to promote quality of life for all citizens. This feeds into the work programme across all sections of the Council, but particularly the heritage, library, arts, recreation, parks and leisure services. We acknowledge the role of inter-agency collaboration to support work in this area.

Our increasing population of children and young people creates a responsibility for the local authority in providing cultural services and facilities for them, while also recognising the significant ageing population and the demands and expectations that creates around 'quality of life.' Within this strategy, we look forward to embracing our cultural heritage, as well as our future.



CREATIVE
KILDARE
CONSULTATION

5 YEAR
STRATEGY

CULTURE & CREATIVE
Strategy 2018-2022



VISION



Definition of
Culture & Creativity

3 **Culture and Creativity in Kildare**

*Creativity – interaction between the human and natural environment-
in a very particular rural and changing landscape*

*Go mbeidh daoine in ann Gaeilge a úsáid
go laethúil i siopaí, eogras, eaglais irís.*

*If it makes me say “I never knew that about Kildare”
If it makes me say ” I never thought about Kildare like that” –
that’s culture*

*Go mbeidh tuiscint ag daoine cad as a tháinig siad agus
go mbeidh siad oscailte do thaithí nua*

*The sharing of ideas with someone who listens
and gives a “leg up” means everything*

*Creativity for me is wholeheartedly pursuing the question
“what would happen if....”*

*Culture is where we are now our friends, neighbours, community and
environment. We can also speak of culture as culturally related
activities of the mind and body*

** comments from public consultation meetings*

4 **The Creative Ireland Vision for Kildare**

‘The vision of Creative Ireland is that every person living in Ireland will have the opportunity to fully realise his or her creative potential. The vision is pursued through the Five-Pillars of the Creative Ireland Programme:

Pillar 1: Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child

Pillar 2: Enabling Creativity in Every Community

Pillar 3: Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure

Pillar 4: The Creative Industries: Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production

Pillar 5: Unifying our Global Reputation

Participation and access are central to the vision. Connecting artists and other creators to communities is also regarded as essential to realising the vision’. Local authorities across Ireland have been charged with the delivery of Pillar 2 'Enabling Creativity in Every Community'.

Within this, but with cognisance for the 4 companion pillars, the vision for Kildare is

'to augment and nurture a valued network of partners that collaborate to achieve shared outcomes for culture and creativity in County Kildare' #Creative Kildare

5 **The Creative Ireland Values in Kildare**

- * **Empowerment**
- * **Collaboration**
- * **Communication**
- * **Community**
- * **Participation**
- * **Inclusivity**

Empowerment

- Provide supports for individuals and groups to build capacity through networking, training, information exchange and grant aid
- Recognise and support the significant contribution of the voluntary sector in enhancing culture and creativity in Co Kildare
- Encourage ambition, risk, innovation, entrepreneurship and excellence in the creative and cultural sectors

- Recognise and encourage the role of the cultural and creativity sector in creating social change

Collaboration

The Culture and Creativity Strategy in Kildare was informed by a series of public consultations and think-tanks for members of Kildare's Creative Ireland team, partner organisations and agencies and individuals from the creative and cultural sector.

- The Strategy is centred around a commitment from Kildare County Council, as lead partner, to facilitate an ongoing collaborative process to strengthen and augment the Culture and Creative infrastructure in Kildare
- The Kildare Creative Ireland committee will further develop relationships with artists across arts forms, arts organisations, designers, craft workers, historians, archivists, community activists, educators, history, heritage and biodiversity groups, game developers, the Irish Language community, archaeologists, ecologists, architects, volunteers, the tourism sector, County Kildare Tourism Board, County Kildare Chamber of Commerce, Local Enterprise Office, local authority staff and elected representatives.

Communication

- Improve the accessibility and content of Kildare County Council's website to create an information repository for the Culture and Creativity sector in Co Kildare
- Embrace the use of Irish Language across all communications
- Further utilise Kildare Tourism Board communication channels via the Tourism Website, social media platforms and calendar of events and printed collateral.-
 - Further explore the potential of social media to support 'getting the message out there'
- Examine the potential of cohesive marketing strategies across the cultural and creativity sectors.

Community

- Consider opportunities to engage with three 'communities' and opportunities for exchange and collaboration
 - The cultural and creativity sector (having a broad range of interests)
 - Communities of interest that may be considered as 'niche' (i.e. local historians, film makers, designers)
 - General public (those who are not already engaged in the cultural and creativity sector)

Participation

- Take cognisance for the broader societal impact of participation and the benefits to the wider community, but also the personal benefits of participation.
- Support citizens to more actively participate in the cultural life of the county.
- When devising programmes of work, take cognisance of the barriers to participation (financial, geographical, attitudinal, language, societal and other access barriers)

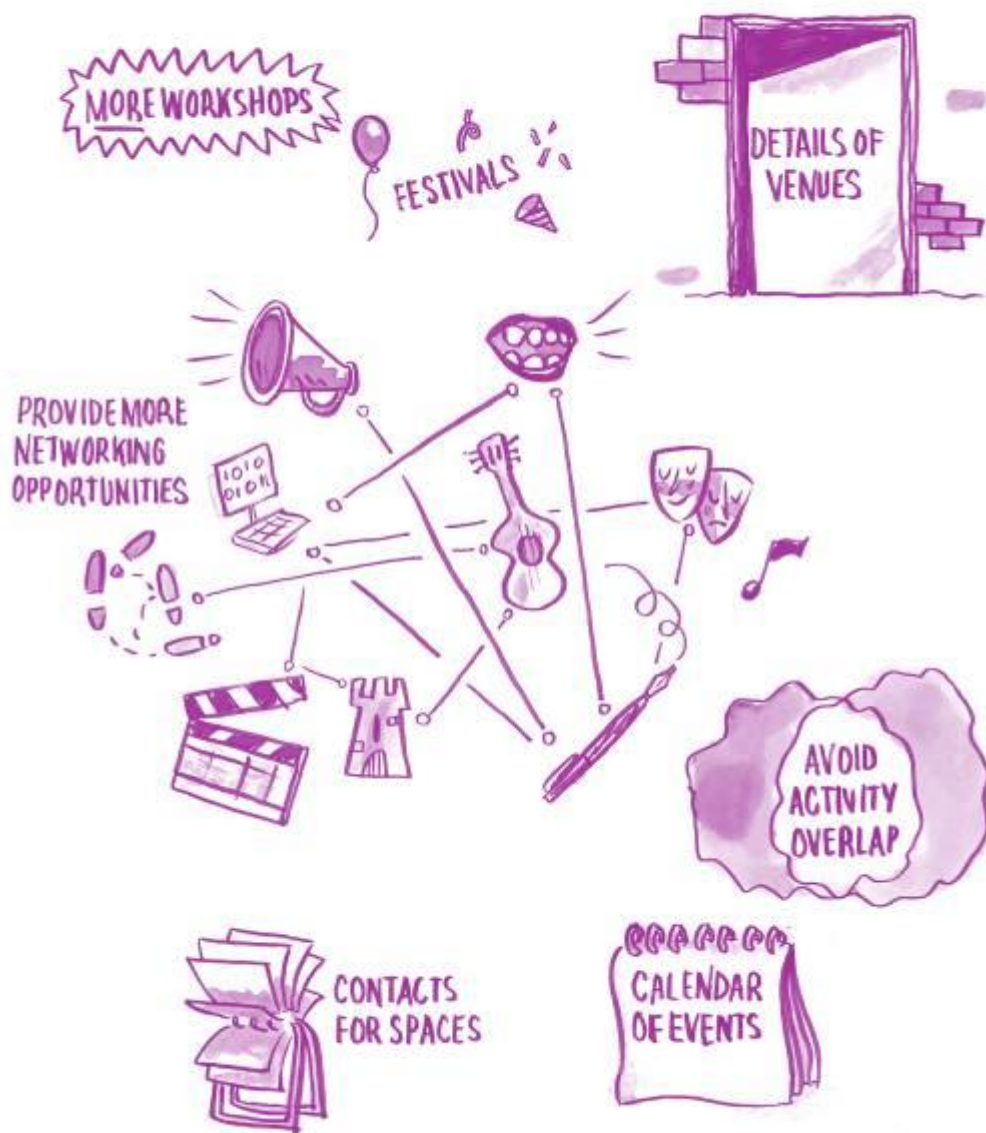
Inclusivity

- Create opportunities for increased citizen participation, especially for those not currently engaged
- Celebrate and support opportunities to embrace cultural diversity, informed by the many traditions and social backgrounds of citizens living in Co. Kildare
- Encourage citizen engagement with the wide range of creative and culture programmes, facilities and amenities that are easily accessible and available to communities in Co Kildare

6 The Strategic Priorities for Kildare:

1. Enhance and support our local cultural and creative network
2. Natural and Built Environment
3. Children and Young People
4. Sense of Place and Identity
5. Enhanced Wellbeing Through Participation

Enhance and Support Our Local Cultural and Creative Network



1. Enhance and support our local cultural and creative network

- Promote the suite of existing training and mentoring available to the culture and creative sector in Co Kildare and plan for the development of further capacity building opportunities
- Promote the suite of Grants and Bursaries available to the culture and creative sector and fully utilise increased opportunities through commissions, residencies and Creative Ireland bursary awards
- Carry out an audit and mapping process of cultural and creative resources in Co Kildare. Consider the use of digital technology to support this work
- Continue to support individuals and local creative industries to develop business networks, skills and acumen that support local economic investment and cultural tourism
- Explore the potential of local 'Cultural Champions' to assist in the promotion and advocacy of the importance of creativity, culture and wellbeing

Nature & Built Environment



2. Natural and Built Environment

- Support further awareness of the richness of Kildare's natural and built environment through publications, signage and other resource material
- Make heritage sites more assessable to the public via information circulation, access to facilities, use of new technologies and the use folklore to enhance the story of sites
- Continue to animate Kildare's natural and built environment
- Create opportunities for creative inspiration in Kildare's varied and plentiful biodiversity and wildlife
- Continue to invest in Kildare's parks and playgrounds

Children & Young People



3. Children and Young People

- Continue to create environments for children and young people to explore, test, engage, inspire and provide an avenue which may increase the uptake of science, technology, engineering, the arts and maths (STEAM) subjects
- Consider the potential within cultural and creative environments, to facilitate access to emerging technologies and coding
- Continue to push the definitions of 'play' 'culture' and 'creativity' when devising programmes for children

Sense of Place & Identity



4. Sense of Place and Identity

- Encourage the exploration, promotion and documentation of Kildare's 'intangible cultural heritage', that includes oral tradition, social practices, rituals and events
- Support a thriving Irish language speaking community by bringing together and working with local Irish organisations, Gael Scoileanna and Comhairle Contae Chill DaraCoiste Gaeilge
- Further explore opportunities to embrace the wide range of nationalities and ethnicities of citizens living in Co Kildare

Enhanced Wellbeing Through Participation

100 THINGS TO DO
IN KILDARE
BEFORE YOU DIE!



LOCAL MEETINGS



5. Enhanced Wellbeing Through Participation

- Continue to work with partner organisations with responsibility for health and wellbeing to encourage artistic excellence and increased participation
- Continue to work across departments in Kildare County Council and with partner organisations to support initiatives that improve quality of life for citizens

DRAFT

Audit, Mapping & Promotion of Local Cultural and Creative Resources



Implementation in 2018 and beyond :

Continue to provide annual grant aid, bursary awards commissions, residencies and other opportunities for the creative and culture sector in Kildare, to include information sessions on 'how to apply for grants'.

Co-ordinate and facilitate regular events/seminars/showcases that allow for the culture and creative sector to meet, network, develop and create partnerships

Continue to support individuals and creative industries to develop business networks, skills and acumen with support from partner organisations including Local Enterprise Office and County Kildare Chamber of Commerce

Further develop Kildare County Council's content for the Culture and Creative sector, within a #Creative Kildare brand

Continue to liaise with County Kildare Tourism Board to promote Kildare's tourism potential, highlighting the cultural and creative offerings, including the 'Ancient East' trail as well as utilising their communications channels for promotion of culture and creativity.

Continue to support programmes that celebrate and interrogate the diversity of communities living in Co Kildare.

Carry out an audit and mapping exercise on the cultural and creativity sector in Kildare. This body of work will be informed by data from Census 2016 and the All Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO)

Continue to support the year-round programme of festivals and events in Co Kildare

Continue to support a diverse programme in culture and creativity for children and young people in non-formal settings

With our academic partners in Maynooth University (including Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education) Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board, Kildare Education Centre and schools, support and develop existing provision for children and young people in culture and creativity in formal education settings

Continue to work with education partners on the establishment of a Kildare Music Education Partnership

With our academic partners in Maynooth University Adult Education Department and Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board Further Education programme, support and develop existing provision for older people in culture and creativity in formal education settings

Continue to support programmes that promote positive wellbeing for all citizens and further support bespoke wellbeing initiatives with our health services partners

Continue to work with the Library Services countywide to provide a diverse range of programmes that support creativity and wellbeing and further awareness of our 'Sense of Place and Identity'

Support the programme of work devised by Decade of Commemorations (2013-2023) committee

Continue to develop Heritage Week as a platform to showcase the vast range of community and state involvement in research, conservation and promotion of natural and built heritage in Co Kildare

Continue to develop Culture Night as a platform to showcase the breadth of arts and cultural facilities and activity in Co Kildare

Continue to develop Biodiversity Week as a platform to showcase the vast range of Kildare natural heritage and support the work of natural heritage groups throughout the county

Further explore Play Day as a showcase for play, culture and creativity in the county.

Further expand Seachtain na Gaeilge to promote and encourage the ever growing numbers using the Irish Language whether it be one word or a conversation.

Further examine international opportunities for the cultural and creativity sector, through Town Twinning, residencies and exchange.

Investigate the devising of effective measurement tools to evaluate the impact of public investment in culture and creativity at a local level, in association with the Arts Council, Heritage Council and other partners.